The information enclosed was given to me by George Ellis and I believe that he got it from Dora Clark. I remember having seen this in a paper (I thought it was the Sentinel) when I was perhapd 12 to 15 years old. I had tried several times to find it again without success. I had even asked Abbot Chadbourne when he worked at the Sentinel to try to find it but he could not find it in the files of that paper. Then suddenly it fell into my hands from George.

I hope you find something new to you in it. If you have any questions about place references I might be able to help a little.

Horace

Don't mind the spacing on the copy. I forgot to set the proper number of lines per page.

FRANKLIN,MASS. July 17,1891 (Friday)
(copied from material furnished by George Ellis)

POVERTY LANE

The early settlers in that section.
How the name was derived.

During the winters of 1886 and 1887 a few of the residents of Unionville organized a literary and social society, known as the U.E.C.Club. Many entertaining, practical, poetical and racy productions were enjoyed; among them this history of Unionville. These are authentic facts, related by old inhabitants who have "passed on", and as this is the only record, we kindly ask a place in your column.

A man by the name of Keeney or Keenan was the first settler in Unionville. He was a squatter, and took up his claim on what is now known as Indian Island Farm. This was about 1700. John Goldsbury was the next occupant of this place, then Elisha Harding, followed by Goldsbury Pond, now owned by Joseph Smith. Indian Island Farm takes it's name from Indian Island, situated within the limits of the farm. It was used for council meetings, and also as a retreat in time of danger.

Simon Slocum was the next settler. His site was that now owned by James P. Ray. His stay was short. Nathaniel Thayer, grandfather of Davis, Emory and Rev. William M. Thayer succeeded him. Eleazer Metcalf made the third settlement where F.B.Ray now lives. After him, Capt. Asa Pond owned and occupied the place, followed by William Makepeace, and then it came into possession of Mr. Ray. Eleazer Metcalf's brother George lived in the fields near the Daniels place. It was afterward owned by Ebenezer Aldis and then by Nathaniel Thayer.

Ebenezer Aldis was insane. He gave everybody in the neighborhood curious nicknames. One story related of him is as follows:"One night when he was sick and one of the neighbors was watching with him, he was very restless, saying he felt he had a call to preach Hell and Damnation. The man told him he might preach for one hour, if at that time he would lie down and go to sleep. So he preached Hell and Damnation for one hour, then closed his book, blew out the candle and lay down and slept all night".

Holbrook settled where Goldsbury Pond lived. From Holbrook the place passed into posession of Oliver Pond, and from him to Goldsbury Pond, father of the late Goldsbury Pond.

The First Store.

Timothy Rockwood settled nearly opposite the Goldsbury Pond place. He was followed by his son Asa, and he by his son William, the present occupant. Timothy Rockwood bought the place of Oliver Pond, grandfather of the late Goldsbury Pond, Dec.1781. Timothy Rockwood enlisted as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Owing to sickness, he was released after six weeks service. He was never able to do much labor after his release, so commenced the business of carrying the farmer's produce, such as calves, poultry, eggs etc. to Boston,

and in return bringing pins, needles, thread, tape and other small wares, which he kept in wooden pails on the kitchen table, selling them to his neighbors. This was the beginning of the Rockwood store, which remained in the family until 1886; as his business increased, he converted his carriage-shed adjoining his house into a store where he sold rum, molasses, calico, etc. A detachment of the American troops was stationed at Roxbury while the British held Boston. Mr. Rockwood sold his produce to British and Americans alike, wrapping the meat in a cloth in which the American friends, when they returned it, would secrete a package of powder. This he would conceal in the axle of his cart, which was made hollow for his contraband trade, in this way carrying it past the British sentry stationed at the Roxbury line, and leaving it in the American camp.

The John Goings came next. The cellar alone remains. It is nearly opposite the small house near Grove Street crossing.

A man named Wilson owned the Jason Tower place. From him it passed to Jesse Ware, brother of Eli, and from him to his son, Sanford Ware.

The house now occupied by Peter Whiting was built by Prince Baylies, a black man who worked at the forge, a slave owned by Judge Baylies of Taunton. It was afterward used as a tenement house.

Joseph Whiting bought it in 1812, and after thoroughly repairing it, made it his home. At the same time he bought one half of the rist mill and water power near the (fire)
engine house.

At an early date Job Hill settled on Forge Hill. He sold to Abram Blake, who disposed of it to different parties. The house and part of the farm passed into the hands of Abijah Clark. The house was two stories high, and the well and cellar still mark the site. J.P.Ray now owns this property.

John Clark's house was also on Forge Hill, at a short distance from the last mentioned place. It was first sold to Amariah Ware. He disposed of it to Joseph Whiting, and it is now owned by Daniel P. Whiting.

Forge Hill was formerly owned by several families and was settled as early as any portion of the town, and has quite an interesting history. The old road running over this hill was one of the first laid out in the town, being on record in Wrentham in 1725. Families living on the hill were among the early patrons of the Unionville school.

Seth Daniels, called "Quaker Daniels", was an early settler. His property descended to his son Joseph, then to Fisher, and from him to Lucius, the present occupant.

Next to this was the house built by Samuel Rockwood. He had no sons, and his daughter Polly, who married Elijah Nason, and was familiarly known as "Aunt Polly" Nason when living on Pleasant street, a very eccentric woman, inherited the property. From her it passed to Fisher Daniels and from him to his son Waldo.

Beyond this lived Benjamin Clark. The place descended to his son Samuel, nicknamed the "Puffer". He was succeeded by his son Samuel, and from him it passed to his son Erastus. He sold it to John Corbett, the present owner of the place..

Starting from Indian Island Farm and travelling west, the first one was a small one nearly opposite the big elm tree, owned by John Slocum.

Jonathan Hawes settled on the place now occupied by E.K.Ray. He was followed by Moses Knapp, a Major during the Revolutionary War, and a noted man. His son, Major Alfred, succeeded him. He was grandfather to the present occupant, E.K.Ray. A little southeast of this farm in the fields, are the remains of a cellar which marks the place where Seth Wright settled about 1700.

The Home of a Tory.

Next on the right stood the Nathan Aldis house and store. He was a Tory and fled the British Army. Some patriots from Cumberland went to his house to arrest him, but failed in doing so as he stood at the window and threatened to shoot the first man who put his hand on the door. The same night he fled to Boston, his horse dropping dead just inside the British lines. He died while in the British army and left one son, an only child, who became an eminent lawyer and settled in St. Albans, Vermont and was made Judge of the Court in that place. He owned a large estate in this town, comprising meadow land on Mine Brook and the plains, the Wright place, Huckleberry Hill, etc., all of which has passed out of the possession of his descendents, and the old house and store were torn down by a R.I. vandal about a year ago. The pot of money said to have been buried by Nathan Aldis at the time of his flight has not been found. His son, Asa Aldis, was brought up by his mother's family and his inheritance saved from confiscation by coroner Stephen, Metcalf's uncle, who declared the property insolvent. (See History of Franklin)

The place now occupied by William Clark was first settled by Eleazer Ware, father of Eli, who succeeded him. Then Aaron Merrifield, grandson of Eli Ware, took possession of it.

This is one account while another says that the place was first settled by Col. Wright, a peculiar man, well-to-do, but miserly in his habits and averse to work, and the following story is told of him.

Extra Good Cider.

One time having several (hogsheads) of sweet cider which he wanted

in his cellar, he made a large vat under his cellar window and poured in the cider through the spout. A thirsty pig, of an investigating

turn of mind, got into the vat and was drowned. The cider had a great reputation for sweetness and it was not until it was nearly gone that the fate of the pig was ascertained. Eli Ware or Col. Wright-which settled the place where William Clark lives, is a question for discussion at the end of this paper.

William Ware settled the place known as Hannah Pond's. Her daughter Lois inherited the property. She married Joel Adams, father of Orrin Adams, who lived there for many years.

The Sheckle, or Sickle, place was situated near the spot now occupied by the new slaughter house belonging to E.K.Ray. The site of the house may be traced by the remains of the cellar, and part of the orchard still remains, called the Sheckle orchard.

She Was Called a Witch

Old Moll Sheckle was reputed a witch. She and the miller formed a friendly compact. He never charged toll for grinding her grain, and if he fell asleep at his work, she would cause the mill to stop when the grist ran through, that the stones might not be injured.

But if any cow met with an accident, if any batch of bread was spoiled, Moll was at the bottom of it all. One day Grandmother Pond was boiling a dinner when the pot fell from the crane, and everything was spilled. Old Moll did it. Doctor Metcalf's wife, living at City Mills, was accustomed to fill her brick oven with brownbread, six or eight loaves. If for any reason it became sour, old Moll was blamed. This happened several times, and to revenge herself, Mrs. Metcalf one day heated the oven to a white heat, threw in all the sour bread she had and vowed she would burn the witch out of it. She called Dr. M. saying she had burned old Moll out of her bread, and he must make ready, for they would soon come for him. Sure enough, a man soon after,came riding in great haste--"Old Moll had falled in the fire and was dreadfully burned". This proved fatal, and the neighbors were never again troubled with sour bread and bewitched butter.

An old man, named Tom Cook, whose sister lived near the Grove Street railroad crossing, traveled up and down the country for a living. He was always dirty, ragged and with his stockings hanging loose about his ankles. He was asked why he did not fasten them upwith garters as others did. He was reputed to have sold himself to the devil, who had helped him through many scrapes. No fasteners were secure enough to prevent his entering, by "His Majesty's" health, any house or barn he chose. When his contract expired and the Devil came for him, Tom says:"Let me first build my fire" which was granted. "Now let me dress myself, there's no hurry" says Tom. This was also agreed to, but Tom was so deliberate the Devil became impatient. "Let me put on my garters" said Tom. "Yes" said the Devil, when quicker than thought Tom threw them into the fire, and never wore garters again.

He Names the Place

An old man named Soloman Hughes, who went from house to house "whipping the cat" (making shoes for the people), said, "In all his

travels this was the poorest place he was ever in; there was land enough but not a cent of money". This gave rise to the name of "Poverty Lane". He was the subject of these original lines:

Soloman Hughes
Makes boots and shoes
And puts them well together.
He has no heels
But what he steals
And begs his upper leather.

Pudding Lane is now called Pond Street.

Central Street the Unionville portion of which was called Poverty Lane for one hundred years, is one of the oldest roads in the town, it being the old stage route from Worcester to Taunton.

How Streets Were Started

In the early days Indian trails were used as highways, and the principal settlements seem to have been made near some well-defined trail. On one of these, running from E.K.Ray's place of residence to house of Baxter Clark, there are remains of eleven old cellars, each of them probably having an interesting history.

The First Schoolhouse

The first schoolhouse stood nearly opposite the house of Mr. Frank Barton. Goldsbury Pond was too young to attend school, but remembers, when a small boy in petticoats, he was carried to school one day on the back of a big boy. Here Dr. Emmons came every term to drill the children in the Assembly's chatechism. The Doctor, in cocked hat, short clothes, silver shoe and knee buckles and the children dressed in their best, was the established order on such occasions. The schoolhouse was accidentally burned. The second building was placed in the lot where the present one stands, but nearer the road. The building was moved back of the old Thayer house some years since and a new and comfortable building erected on the site of the present house. It was destroyed by fire Sunday morning, October 26,1879, and replaced by the present structure, which is the fourth since the settlement of the town. In the good old times the children were all noted for their proficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic.

The saw-mill privilege was laid out in 1698. The saw-mill was built in 1700. there were several owners. (See history of Franklin). The first saw-mill was destroyed and rebuilt about 1725. It was destroyed by fire.

About the time of the Revolution, owing to the scarcity of iron, a forge was erected on the site of the old saw-mill for the purpose of working up scrap iron. Prince Baylies superintended the refining furnace. After the first forge ran down a second one was built on the same site. It became useless about 1800. The location was a little south of the railroad crossing.

Below this was the grist mill privilege. It was taken up by the Metcalfs. From them it passed into the hands of Oliver Pond, then

into posession of his sons, Goldsbury and Oliver Pond, and they sold to the Whitings. This privilege was near the Unionville (fire) engine house.

The next privilege was taken up after 1750. It was opposite F.B. Ray's. There was first a factory for fulling and finishing cloth, then two saw-mills, then a thread factory, followed by one for cloth. When owned by William Makepeace it was used for thread and cloth. The above factory is now a tenement house near the bridge and next below the J.P.Ray cottage.